

SHIRLEY HIGH SCHOOL PERFORMING ARTS COLLEGE

ICT & BUSINESS STUDIES



The ICT & Business Studies department at Shirley High School is very successful with 89% of all Year 11 students achieving a GCSE in ICT (A*-C grades).

At KS5 100% of A2 ICT students along with 100% A2 Business Studies students achieved A-D grades. The department has a head of department, a 2nd and a 3rd in charge. All three are highly experienced teachers.

Shirley High School has outstanding ICT facilities with over 300 computers situated around the school for staff and student use. At present, our network system operates on Windows 7 and Microsoft Office 2010, with the capability of moving to Windows 8 in the future.

All classrooms have an interactive whiteboard, which teaching staff can use to enhance the quality of their lesson delivery.

There are ten ICT rooms for teaching purposes and students may also use the Learning Resources Centre to do their individual work, either during lessons, lunchtime or out of school hours.

Students can access their work in any of the ICT areas, irrespective of where they have been working previously. They can use the Internet and use the CD Rom facilities installed on the system.

The school recognises the importance of enabling each student to acquire the ICT skills they will need to apply during their time at Shirley High, and later on in further education and industry. All students, therefore, in Years 7 and 8 have a weekly 60 minute timetabled lesson of Computer Science, when they can develop their skills to enable them to access the full range of ICT facilities in the school. The department policy is 1:1 ratio of student to computer in lesson time.

In Year 9 students can opt to study the WJEC Computer Science and the AQA Business Studies GCSE as a KS4 option. Both courses give students 5 x 60 minute lessons across a 2 week timetable. The school has traditionally achieved excellent examination results at Key Stage 4 in ICT and Business. In the Sixth Form students can opt to study the WJEC AS/A Level ICT course and/or the AQA AS/A Level Business course or the Edexcel BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Business. The department are looking to introduce the option of an AS/A Level in Computer Science in September 2017.

The school has its own managed learning environment (Fronter). This allows students access to resources (including lessons, homework and on-line courses) in and away from school. All students are introduced to the Managed Learning Environment within their first few weeks at Shirley. This helps to promote the learning and confidence in the use of ICT by the whole school community.